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**June 24, 2016**

**NEWS RELEASE**

## **El Paso Fire Department Firework Reminder**

### **Firefighters remind the public firework use is not permitted in City limits**

*El Paso, Texas* – The El Paso Fire Department would like to remind the public that the use of fireworks inside the City of El Paso is illegal and extremely dangerous. Residents caught using fireworks inside city limits can be issued a citation; fines go as high as \$2,000. More importantly, many emergencies are caused by fireworks. Children are often burned on the hands and face, usually by playing with sparklers. Sparklers can reach temperatures of up to 1,000 degrees.

Independence Day presents the largest fire danger compared to other holidays. Nationwide, fire departments respond to more fires and serious burn injuries than any other day during the year.

It is possible to celebrate and enjoy the holiday. The El Paso Fire Department recommends these safety tips during the Independence Day holiday.

- Do not use fireworks of any kind. They can cause serious burn injuries.
- Be careful with all fire activities (cooking, grilling, etc.)
- Check local postings for a list of special firework displays planned for the Fourth of July and attend those instead of using consumer fireworks.
- Keep a close eye on children and pets at events where fireworks are used. Do not allow children or pets near firework debris after the show; they may still be active.

“We want to encourage the public to take advantage of the amazing displays put on throughout El Paso to celebrate the Fourth of July,” Fire Marshal Orlando Arriola said. “These are going to be bigger and better shows put on by trained professionals. More importantly, they are much safer.”

For a list of these and other summer safety tips, please visit <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/fire-department/divisions/fire-prevention>.

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